

Current FACts

FAC News to Use

December 12, 2013

Historic Properties Unveils Commemorative Ornament

Governor's Mansion 100th Anniversary



Rear view of ornament.



Front view of ornament.

Just in time for your holiday gift giving, the Kentucky Division of Historic Properties announces the

release of the Kentucky Governor's Mansion ornament to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Commonwealth's architectural landmark in 2014.

This historic landmark has been home to 25 governors and their families, and has served as an impressive setting for welcoming dignitaries from across the globe as well as the citizens of the Commonwealth. You can be a part of this special celebration by purchasing this collectible ornament.

Each ornament comes in its own presentation box along with information and history about the Kentucky Governor's Mansion. The ornament has been masterfully designed and crafted by the ChemArt Company, the same company that has provided the annual White House Christmas Ornament to collectors around the world. The ornament may be purchased on eBay, the Capitol tour desk, Frankfort/Franklin Count Tourist Commission and Berry Mansion.

A Gift for All Seasons

On Dec. 25, Daniel (COT) and Paula (Education & Workforce) Arnold will be celebrating their first Christmas with their two new young daughters they recently adopted from Colombia.



L to R: Paula, Angy, Jadie, Daniel

"As a family, we have so many things to celebrate and be thankful for," said Daniel. "Having Angy and Jadie, brings such a wonderful dimension to our family and now we're making memories for the rest of our lives. They are loving gifts that we cherish each and every day."

For Daniel and Paula, the yearlong adoption journey was often tedious and mired in paperwork, but both said once they decided to adopt, they had faith that everything would work out.

They had been thinking about adopting and on one Sunday in the fall of 2012 they read about "Adoption Sunday" in their church bulletin. Adoption Sunday is organized by different organizations to help educate people on the adoption process and highlight resources that families can use.

Words of wisdom - I could give endless pieces of advice, but more than anything, if a couple has any inkling about feeling called to do this, then they need to explore it. If after first steps in exploration, that sense doesn't go away, then they need to do it plain and simple.

While the financial aspect can be daunting, there really is a lot of help and the state is as good a public sector supporting employer as there is in the country – that was nationally recognized by the Dave Thomas foundation.

Also things just tend to work out – we were given some good advice along those lines and saw that ourselves before, during and after.

- Daniel Arnold

Two New Employees Join the Office of General Counsel

*Geri Grigsby Named General Counsel;
Cary Bishop Staff Attorney*

New general counsel **Geri Grigsby** officially joins the Finance Cabinet on Dec. 16. Her most recent position was policy advisor/chief of staff for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Grigsby's public sector service includes stints as an assistant Commonwealth's attorney, legislative liaison for the U.S. House of Representatives, general counsel for the Legislative Research Commission and chief of staff for Senator Ed Worley. Geri obtained her bachelor's degree and juris doctorate from the University of Kentucky.

Cary Bishop joined the General Counsel's Office on Nov. 1 as a Staff Attorney. Prior to coming to Finance, Cary most recently worked as a staff attorney at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, primarily focusing on work related to Medicaid, personnel cases, contracts and the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange ("Kynect"). Cary has also worked for the Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development in addition to five years experience working as a child support prosecutor in Ohio. Cary has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Ohio University and received his law degree from Ohio State University.

Use It or Lose It

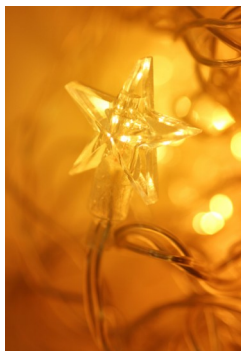
For those of you with Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA), you'll want to make sure that you have purchased items or health services that total the amount you set aside in your 2013 FSA. As long as you have documentation showing purchases were made between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2013, you have until March 31, 2014 to submit claims for 2013 reimbursements.



Family Fun Things to do at the Holidays!!!

Christmas at the Galt House Hotel, which includes the unique inner-lighted KaLightoscope figures from China, has been named a Top 100 Event by the American Bus Association for the third year.

The hotel's transformation into a holiday wonderland of diversions is sure to delight the kids. The attraction is open through Jan. 1, and you can find more information



GIFT

Cont'd from pg. 1

This particular Adoption Sunday came at just the right time and the Arnolds decided to start researching and choosing an agency to work with. According to Daniel, they just started the "process rolling."



L to R: Jadie and Angy

Daniel and Paula flew to Bogota, Columbia in mid August and on August 21 after lots of paperwork and other preparations, the new parents were able to hug and hold their daughters for the first time. Once together, the family had to remain in Columbia for six weeks to allow time to legally transfer of the girls from wards of the state to official custody of the Arnolds.

Those six weeks were full of unexpected joys and some difficult times. But in the end, final custody was granted and celebrated with a traditional "sentencia" cake on September 19. The Arnolds returned home to Kentucky on October 2, where Angy and Jadie met their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

"We could not be more blessed this Christmas," said Daniel. "Our family is blessed with wonderful family and friends. Paula and I are extremely grateful to all our co-workers and managers for the support they gave throughout this entire adventure."



At Newport Aquarium, Scuba Santa's Winter Waterland is celebrating its 10th anniversary and will be open to the public through Jan. 1. Scuba Santa's underwater dive show has been called one of the most unusual holiday experiences in the country. Find more information at www.newportaquarium.com.

